

College Merit Fellowship

The College will select and award the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Merit Fellows for Fall 2017 (FY18) first time enrolled graduate students; funding is for the first year. The goal is to recruit and matriculate top quality PhD graduate students; Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a clear career objective to pursue a Ph.D; and especially students with the potential to make unique contributions to our graduate program.

- IDP students should be eligible for fellowship awards when faculty advisor is known and adloc'd to associate college.
- The College Merit Fellowship will be at the departmental base rate +20% for 1 year (FY18, September 2017-August 2018).
- Plus, approximately \$10,500 to cover the cost of tuition, fees and the graduate student health plan.

Departmental Assistantship

- The department must agree to supply at least 4 years for PhD students admitted directly into PhD and 3 years for PhD students admitted with recognized master's degree, and one year for master's students.

Selection and Criteria

- Awards will be made on a competitive basis using an evaluation rubric that considers the following as detailed in the nominating statement, and in the students statement of purpose in their graduate application or CV.:
 - **Grades and standardized test scores**
 - **Academics**
Based on: University or program attended clarity of career objectives, PhD candidate or MS thesis-option with a clear commitment to pursue a PhD, class rank, academic awards and honors, etc. This addresses the overall academic training and potential of the student
 - **High Impact Experiential Learning**
Based on: research experience (REU, honors research, graduate research, independent study, etc.), study abroad, internships, special projects, etc. Emphasis is on independent research experience that resulted in presentations, posters, abstracts, publications, etc.
 - **Demonstrated leadership, contribution to College diversity, and intangibles related to the high probability for success in graduate school.**
Based on: leadership experience, involvement in societies/organizations within and beyond the department/college/university (ex. clubs, officer, scientific societies), contribution to diversity in the college, life intangibles, etc.
 - **Strength of letters of recommendation:**
Based on overall strength of the letters of recommendation. To be most impactful, the letters should give overall quantitative (ex. top1%, top quartile, etc.) or qualitative ranking (ex. best, above average, etc.).
- Applicant must be a US citizen or permanent resident.
- First time graduate enrollment Fall 2017.
- Preference will be given to Ph.D. students; maximum 15% can be allocated to Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a clear career objective to pursue a Ph.D.
- The student will be asked to accept the Fellowship within 2 weeks after receiving the offer, if possible, but will be given until April 14 if needed.
- Selection will be made by an ad hoc committee of the Graduate Program Council.

Nomination Packet: Submit one PDF that contains the complete:

1. Nominating Cover Form: Complete above Form

2. Nominating Statement: From the Department or Faculty Advisor
3. Rubric: Nominator highlights supporting information in Scoring Rubric
4. Student statement: Attach statement of purpose/career objectives from student’s graduate application or CV

Deadline: February 17, 2017, with weekly evaluations thereafter.